CLAIMS

1   1. A character recognition system, comprising:

2   an optical character reader system for collecting character data by electro-optically

3   scanning printed characters;

4   a conversion system for converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink Character

5   Recognition (MICR) format; and

6   a recognition engine for interpreting the converted character data using a MICR

7   algorithm.

1   2. The character recognition system of claim 1, wherein the optical character reader

2   system scans at a pel density in a range of approximately 200 to 600 dpi.

1   3. The character recognition system of claim 1, wherein the character data is stored in a

2   grey scale image format.

1   4. The character recognition system of claim 3, wherein the conversion system scales the

2   character data to a pel density associated with a multigap MICR read head.

1   5. The character recognition system of claim 3, wherein the conversion system scales the

2   character data to approximately 0.33 millimeters/pixel in a horizontal dimension and 0.43

3   millimeters/pixel in a vertical dimension.

1   6. The character recognition system of claim 3, wherein the conversion system converts

2   the grey scale image format to a black and white image format.

1   7. The character recognition system of claim 1, wherein the printed characters are printed

2   in an E13B font.

1   8. A method for performing character recognition, comprising:

2   collecting character data by electro-optically scanning printed characters;

3   converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR)

4   format; and

5   interpreting the converted character data using a MICR algorithm.

1   9. The method of claim 8, wherein the character data is scanned at a pel density in a

2   range of approximately 200 to 600 dpi.

1   10. The method of claim 8, wherein the collection step stores the character data in a grey

2   scale image format.

1   11. The method of claim 8, wherein the converting step scales the character data to a pel

2   density associated with a multigap MICR read head.

1   12. The method of claim 8, wherein the converting step scales the character data to

2   approximately 0.33 millimeters/pixel in a horizontal dimension and 0.43

3   millimeters/pixel in a vertical dimension.

1   13. The method of claim 10, wherein the converting step converts the grey scale image

2   format to a black and white image format.

1   14. The method of claim 8, wherein the printed characters are printed in an E13B font.

1　15. A program product stored on a recordable medium for performing character

2　recognition, comprising:

3　　　　means for accessing character data collected by an electro-optical scanning

4　system;

5　　　　means for converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink Character Recognition

6　(MICR) format; and

7　　　　means for interpreting the converted character data using a MICR algorithm.

1　16. The program product of claim 15, wherein the character data comprises a pel density

2　in a range of approximately 200 to 600 dpi.

1　17. The program product of claim 15, wherein the converting means scales the character

2　data to a pel density associated with a multigap MICR read head.

1　18. The program product of claim 15, wherein the converting means scales the character

2　data to approximately 0.33 millimeters/pixel in a horizontal dimension and 0.43

3　millimeters/pixel in a vertical dimension.

1　19. The program product of claim 15, wherein the converting means converts a grey

2　scale image format to a black and white image format.

1　20. The program product of claim 15, wherein the character data collected by the electro-

2　optical scanning system comprises characters printed in an E13B font.

1   21. A multi-voting character recognition engine for analyzing an inputted set of printed

2   characters, comprising:

3   a plurality of character recognition systems, wherein each character recognition

4   system independently analyzes the inputted set of printed characters, and wherein one of

5   the character recognition systems includes:

6   an optical character reader system for collecting character data by electro-

7   optically scanning printed characters;

8   a conversion system for converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink

9   Character Recognition (MICR) format; and

10   a recognition engine for interpreting the converted character data using a

11   MICR algorithm; and

12   a voting system for combining results from each of the plurality of character

13   recognition systems and determining a recognized set of characters.

1   22. The multi-voting character recognition engine of claim 21, wherein the inputted set

2   of printed characters are printed in an E13B font.